Application No.: 09/666,229
Filing Date: 09/21/2000

REMARKS

Support for amendments to the claims. Claims 2-3, 6-8, 10-11, 13-16, 21-22, 25-27, 29-30, 32-35, 40-42, 44-46, 48-49, and 51-54, are herein canceled and claims 1, 4-5, 9, 12, 17-20, 23-24, 28, 31, 36-39, 43, 47, 50, and 55-57 are amended. No new matter is added since the original specification and drawings provide support for the amendments. Specifically, for amended claims 1, 20 and 39, see FIG. 1 and page 13, line 26 - page 14, line 16 (email receiving means 1 for receiving emails, configurator 5 for providing configuration data, email header parser 2 for parsing headers, email body parser 3 for parsing bodies and graphical output generator 4 for generating graphical output); see also FIG's 3, 6a, 6b and 6c, and page 14, lines 19-22 (buttons representing respective emails arranged in arrays of rows and columns for displaying; see also specification page 15, line 7- page 16, line 9 (buttons having graphical elements including at least i) a colour, ii) a pattern, e.g., solid, hashed, checkered, etc. and iii) a symbol, e.g., letter, number, punctuation symbol, or icon such as an arrow, heart, diamond, solid, star, cylinder, happy face, etc.). For amended claims 4, 23 and 42, see FIG. 1 and page 14, lines 5-6 (display 6). For amended claims 5, 24 and 43, see page 4, lines 21-24 (at least 238 buttons concurrently displayable). For amended claims 9, 28, and 47, see page 14, line 28 - page 15, line 3 (button size reduced in response to more email volume so more buttons are displayable). For amended claims 12, 31 and 50, see FIG. 4 and page 16, lines 1-9 (hierarchy generator 13); see also page 16, line 27 - page 18, line 9 and FIG's 6a, 6b and 6c (arrays corresponding to levels in a hierarchical arrangement). For amended claims 17, 18 , 19, 36, 37, 38, 55, 56 and 57 see page 16, lines 11-25 (for sender, subject and domain parameters the levels of the hierarchical arrangement correspond to letter sequences in text values; for size parameter the levels correspond to ranges and subranges of size values; for date parameter the levels correspond to date ranges and subranges).

Objection to drawings. The drawings stand objected to because they did not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The claims are herein canceled or amended to overcome this objection. For amended claims 1, 20 and 39, see FIG. 1 (email receiving means 1 for receiving emails, configurator 5 for providing configuration data, email header parser 2 for parsing headers, email body parser 3 for parsing bodies and graphical output generator 4 for generating graphical output); see also FIG's 3, 6a, 6b and 6c (buttons representing respective

Page 10 of 13

JP920000221US1   Application No.: 09/666,229
                                                      Filing Date: 09/21/2000

emails arranged in arrays of rows and columns for displaying; see also specification page 15 and

FIG. 3 (buttons having graphical elements including at least i) a colour, ii) a pattern, e.g., solid,

hashed, checkered, etc. and iii) a symbol, e.g., letter, number, punctuation symbol, or icon such

as an arrow, heart, diamond, solid, star, cylinder, happy face, etc.). For amended claims 4, 23

and 42, see FIG. 1 (display 6). For amended claims 12, 31 and 50, see FIG. 4 (hierarchy

generator 13). For amended claims 17, 36 and 45, see FIG's 6a-6c (arrays corresponding to

levels in a hierarchical arrangement).

     Objections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The specification and claims 7, 10, 26,

29, 45, and 48 stand objected to under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, on the basis that the

specification fails to sufficiently teach graphic sorting method, graphic sorting means, and search

window means. The claims are herein canceled or amended to overcome the objections by

eliminating reference to the cited means. However, Applicant reserves the right to contend the

objections.

     Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

     Claims 1-57 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, on the basis that the

terms "or" and "and/or" are indefinite. Applicant contends that MPEP 2173.05(h) provides

authority stating that the term "or" is not always indefinite. Nevertheless, the claims are herein

amended or canceled to overcome the rejection.

     Claims 9, 28 and 47 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, on the basis that

the phrase "as many images as possible" is indefinite. The claims are herein amended to

overcome the rejection. Specifically, amended claim 9, for example, states that the graphical

output generator reduces sizes of the buttons responsive to a volume of the received emails so

that the number of buttons concurrently displayable increases as the volume of the received

emails increases.

     Claims 2, 21, and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, on the basis

that "icon/symbol/letter/color" is indefinite. The claims are herein canceled.

     Rejections under 35 USC 102(b). Claims 1-4, 7-8, 20-22, 26-27, 39-42, and 45-46

stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,761,644 ("Ueda").

The claims are herein canceled or amended to overcome the rejection. Specifically, claims 2-3,

6-8, 21-22, 26-27, 40-42, 45 and 46 are herein canceled and claims 1, 4, 20, 23 and 39 are

amended. Claims 1, 20 and 39 now state that i) a number of buttons are generated representing respective mails, ii) the buttons are arranged in arrays of rows and columns for displaying, iii) such a button has graphical elements including at least a colour, pattern and symbol for identifying selected ones of extracted keyword, sender, subject, date and domain of the button's respective email, and iv) the colours, patterns and symbols and the ones of the extracted keyword, sender, subject, date and domain selected are responsive to configuration data. Neither Ueda nor any of the other references cited teach or suggest this, so the claims are patentably distinct and therefore allowable.

Amended claims 4 and 23 and are also allowable based on their dependence upon respective independent claims 1 and 20.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 5, 6, 9-19, 23-25, 28-38, 43-44, and 47-57 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda. The claims are herein canceled or amended to overcome the rejection. Specifically, claims 6, 10-11, 13-16, 21-22, 25, 29-30, 32-35, 44, 48-49, and 51-54, are herein canceled and claims 5, 9, 12, 17-19, 23-24, 28, 31, 36-38, 43, 47, 50, and 55-57 are amended.

Amended claims 5, 9, 12, 17-19, 23-24, 28, 31, 36-38, 43, 47, 50, and 55-57 are allowable based on their dependence upon respective independent claims 1, 20 and 39, herein amended. In addition, at least some of the claims are allowable still further due to their own distinctive features, as amended. For example, amended claims 9, 28, and 47 set out a feature according to which button size is reduced in response to more email volume so more buttons are displayable. Neither Ueda nor any of the other references cited teach or suggest this. And amended claims 12, 31 and 50 set out a feature according to which the arrays of buttons correspond to levels in a hierarchical arrangement. Neither Ueda nor any of the other references cited teach or suggest this.

PRIOR ART OF RECORD

Applicant has reviewed the prior art of record cited by but not relied upon by Examiner, and asserts that the invention is patentably distinct.

REQUESTED ACTION

Applicant contends that the invention as amended is patentably distinct, and hereby requests that Examiner grant allowance and prompt passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony V. S. England
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,129
512-477-7165
a@aengland.com

Page 13 of 13